Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 69. (Canceled)

Claim 70. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 82, wherein the hydroxypropyl methylcellulose is low viscosity hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

Claim 71. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 70, wherein the hydroxypropyl methylcellulose has a viscosity of about up to about 40 ~~15~~ cP.

Claim 72. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 82, further comprising a surfactant.

Claim 73 - 75. (Canceled)

Claim 76. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 82 in tablet form.

Claim 77. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 76, wherein the tablet is coated.

Claim 78. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 77, wherein the coating is an acid-resistant coating.

Claim 79. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 78, wherein the coating comprises HPMC-phthalate.

Claim 80. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a controlled release pharmaceutical formulation, the method comprising:

a) forming a matrix comprising:

i) glycerol behenate comprising about 10-36 weight percent of the formulation;

ii) hydroxypropyl methylcellulose comprising about 13-18 weight percent of the formulation;

iii) a clarithromycin component, or derivative thereof, comprising at least about 42 weight percent of the formulation, wherein the components are combined to allow the glycerol behenate to form the matrix and wherein the hydroxypropyl methylcellulose and the clarithromycin component are dispersed within the matrix; and

b) compressing the matrix into tablet form.

Claim 81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, further comprising sieving the matrix prior to compressing the matrix into tablet form.

Claim 82. (Currently Amended) A controlled release pharmaceutical formulation comprising a matrix, said matrix comprising:

a) glycerol behenate comprising about 10-36 weight percent of the formulation;

b) hydroxypropyl methylcellulose comprising about 13-18 weight percent of the formulation and dispersed within the matrix; and

c) clarithromycin, or derivative thereof, comprising at least about 42 weight percent of the formulation and dispersed within the matrix; and

wherein the glycerol behenate, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, and clarithromycin are combined under conditions suitable for generating the matrix, and wherein the matrix provides a controlled release formulation for once daily administration of clarithromycin;

and wherein the glyceryl behenate provides sustained release of the clarithromycin or clarithromycin derivative, and wherein the hydroxypropyl methylcellulose forms a viscous layer in an aqueous medium through which the clarithromycin or clarithromycin derivative diffuses upon solubilization thereby effective to provide controlled release of the clarithromycin or clarithromycin derivative over about a twenty-four hour period.

Claim 83. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 82, wherein the clarithromycin component comprises about 43 weight percent of the formulation.

Claim 84. (New) A controlled release pharmaceutical formulation comprising a matrix, said matrix comprising:

a) glycerol behenate comprising about 22 weight percent of the formulation;

b) low viscosity hydroxypropyl methylcellulose comprising about 17 weight percent of the formulation and dispersed within the matrix; and

c) clarithromycin, or derivative thereof, comprising at least about 43 weight percent of the formulation and dispersed within the matrix;

and wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is presented in the form of a coated tablet.